## I.  CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as indicated in the following listing:

1.  Canceled.

2.  Canceled.

3.  Canceled.

4.  Canceled.

5.  Canceled.

6.  (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1 wherein the comparing the message header to the validating criteria step comprises:~~ A method for validating a message having a message body, a message header, and a message footer in a message queuing environment wherein the message is validated before the message is sent to a recipient program, comprising:

    installing a message validation program on a computer;

    wherein the message validation program performs steps comprising:

    acquiring the message from a sender program;

    analyzing the message;

    comparing the message to a validating criteria;

    comparing a message property to a validating criteria property; ~~and~~

    determining whether the message is valid;

    wherein the message is valid only when the data in the message header and the message footer match the validation criteria and ~~wherein the message is valid only when~~ the message property matches the validating criteria property; and [[.]]

indicating an error to the sender program without forwarding the message

to the message queue for distribution to the recipient program when the message

is not valid.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the comparing the message header to

the validating criteria step comprises:

comparing a message value to a validating criteria value; and

wherein the message is valid only when the message value matches the validating

criteria value.

8.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 ~~wherein the comparing the message body to the~~

~~validating criteria step comprises~~ further comprising:

comparing a message type of the message body to a validating criteria type; ~~and~~

wherein the message is valid only when the message type matches the validating

criteria type.

9.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 ~~wherein the comparing the message body to the~~

~~validating criteria step comprises~~ further comprising:

comparing a message character set of the message body to a validating criteria

character set; and

wherein the message is valid only when the message character set matches the

validating criteria character set.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 ~~wherein the comparing the message body to the validating criteria step comprises~~ <u>further comprising</u>:

    comparing a message format <u>of the message body</u> to a validating criteria format; and

    wherein the message is valid only when the message format matches the validating criteria format.

11. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein the message is validated by the sender program.

12. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein the message is validated by a message queue manager.

13. – 27. (Canceled).